

up to the attention of my colleagues one day following the publication of his book. As I say, he has been called the Sakarov of China. Many of us in our lifetime will never meet a person who has risked so much for democracy.

It is interesting to me to see leaders of our Government travel to South Africa and visit the prison at Robin Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated. It is like visiting a shrine. That is appropriate. Nelson Mandela is a great hero. Why, then, would these same people not even speak out in support of Wei Jingsheng, who right now is suffering the same plight that Nelson Mandela did for so many years?

Remember the name, Wei Jingsheng, the father of democratic freedoms in China, because he had the courage to stand alone.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. I would like to associate myself with the gentlewoman's remarks. I have been very concerned about the status of this gentleman. Is the gentlewoman familiar with any efforts on the part of the Clinton administration to intervene on his behalf up until this point?

Ms. PELOSI. It is my understanding that in meetings from the higher levels of the Clinton administration that Mr. Wei's case has been brought to the attention of the Chinese regime. Either the attempts on Mr. Wei's behalf have not been forceful enough or, one thing is for sure, they have not been successful.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. One of the things I am concerned about, if the gentlewoman will yield further, is that while there are many Members in this body such as the gentlewoman, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], who are very concerned about this situation, the issue is not really being taken very seriously by the administration. It really is their responsibility, they run the State Department, to bring pressure to bear on the Communist Chinese.

THE AUTOMATIC CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. FOGLIETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, people in the Midwest are making the tough and necessary choices to rebuild their own lives. Everything has been taken from them. They very much need our help right now, but they may not get that help.

Why? Because Washington is playing another one of its cynical games. Senator BYRD was just right when he called the CR an automatic pilot.

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It would rescue us from the same public embarrassment they suffered

from last year's Government shut-downs, but it also saves us from having to make the tough choices to balance our budget.

The President has been to North Dakota and knows the need to provide assistance there as soon as possible, but he says that he will veto this bill because of the automatic pilot CR. He is right because it is bad policy, it is a gimmick. It enables us to avoid our constitutional responsibility to make budgets. And if we can lean back on automatic pilot and keep the Government going, how are we ever going to balance the budget?

Let us not play Pennsylvania Ping-Pong. Why do we not invest the time in passing a budget resolution marking up the appropriations bills and getting the job done, not on automatic pilot, but doing the hard work of hard government. That is what we are paid to do.

MFN FOR CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my 5 minutes I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], if I may.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that, and I just wanted to thank the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] for speaking out on Mr. Wei and, second, to say that he was arrested after meeting with John Shattuck from the Clinton administration. After the meeting he was arrested, and I guess I would just say to my colleagues in the House this Congress ought to do something about it.

When Sakharov was under house arrest in the 1980's and Scharansky was in Perm Camp 35, we did resolutions, we did everything, and now we are in the 1990's, in a Republican Congress I might say, so I would say to the leadership on our side we should be doing something to demonstrate that we care.

So I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] for taking this time, and I thank the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] for doing it because this Congress, if we do nothing, we are going to be somewhat complicit in what the Chinese government is doing.

So hopefully the Congress will make this a point of reference and we will talk about it until Mr. Wei is released.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Florida will yield, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] for taking this time, and I associate myself with Ms. PELOSI who has been a giant in the leadership on the issue of dealings with China, human rights in China, and in the Far East generally, as someone who has been very involved with my colleague on the Helsinki Commission as we focused on the former Soviet

Union and Sakharov and other heroes of the Helsinki movement, which articulated principles of recognition of human rights in every Nation.

The former Foreign Minister, now the Prime Minister, articulated the fact that the Helsinki final act adopted a premise that it was of concern to all of us how a nation treated its own citizens. Historically, it has been the premise of nations of how they treated the other nation's citizens might be their business, but how they treated their own citizens should not be of their attention.

The fact of the matter is, of course, our world is a better place because nations, and particularly the United States, has taken a focus on how other nations treat their own citizens.

I will be voting against MFN for China, as I have in the past, with some exceptions, when I join the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI]. But the fact of the matter is we ought to say in the strongest possible terms, as we did to the Soviet Union, "If you treat your citizens badly, you will not be able to deal with us on a business-as-usual basis."

Constructive engagement was not good in South Africa, and I suggest to this administration and previous administrations that constructive engagement, as if we were dealing with nations that adopt our own standards of conduct, should not be the policy of this Government and this Nation.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], and the point I was trying to make with the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is that this is an arena or area where leadership from the White House I think is very essential, and I do not believe we are getting that kind of leadership from the administration. I think the leadership is coming from this body, Members like the gentlewoman from California, like the gentleman from Maryland, the gentleman from Virginia, and there is a vacuum in this cause of human rights, and when we have a high ranking State Department official meeting with somebody and then immediately afterward an arrest occurring and then there is really no outcry coming from the Office of the President, the President of the United States himself, that is a problem, and I think it is incumbent upon us, and particularly people within the President's party, to bring pressure to bear on him to take a more aggressive role in this issue and speaking out on it.

Mr. Speaker, the last Democrat President who occupied the White House, Jimmy Carter, had a very, very strong record on doing this, and he would aggressively move on these issues, and I believe we are not seeing the kind of leadership that we need from the White House on this, and I very much appreciate, needless to say, the comments that the gentlewoman has made because this issue is very disturbing to me when we are having a